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Ministry of Education

EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS LOCAL TEACHER

LANGLEY – Brookswood secondary teacher Sharon Conrad joined Education Minister Shirley Bond in the legislature today for an Education Week ceremony to recognize recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

"Sharon is a wonderful example of the high calibre of teachers in this province," said Bond. "The theatre management skills and self-confidence students gain in Sharon's class will help them to be successful in all other areas of their lives."

Conrad, a fine arts teacher, was recognized for using challenging and difficult material for students in order to move them out of their comfort zone and into places of true learning and discovery. She uses group work to build communication skills, respect, tolerance and teamwork among peers. Under her guidance, Grade 12 students have the opportunity to write plays and then cast other students to fill the roles. This provides older students with new challenges and gives younger students the opportunity to draw on the experience of the seniors.

"I congratulate Sharon for going above and beyond in her profession," said Mary Polak, MLA for Langley. "Her innovative teaching style challenges and motivates students, providing them with a love of learning that will last a lifetime."

"Brookswood has hundreds of students studying drama every year and Sharon is one reason why so many of our students are in performing arts," said principal Don McBeath. "Sharon is indeed an exceptional educator. I believe her award recognizes what most of the public understands; teachers make a difference to students and to society as they devote their lives to the education and success of young Canadians."

The Brookswood theatre is used extensively by the community for a variety of events. Conrad's students are responsible for the entire management of these events, from communication with the clients to the set-up and operation of all the components of the event. They are respected for their knowledge and excellent work ethic. Many of them move on to professional careers in stage management and film and television production.

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Sharon Conrad is among 14 B.C. educators who received the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. They joined Education Minister Shirley Bond today to honour their achievement as part of Education Week 2007. During Education Week 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell will announce the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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